and pierced with large plain square mullioned windows. The roof bears a stack of chimneys, the base of which is panelled, and the panels quatrefoliated. The chimney shafts are worked in different patterns, *i. e.* composed of bricks so moulded as to form these patterns. Their appearance altogether, in form and proportion, has much elegance, and is an excellent example of a style of ornamental brickwork which prevailed in Essex especially, but also in Cambridge and Suffolk.*

The interior has been dismantled, and exhibits very imperfectly the original distribution of its space.

The site of the mansion is encompassed by a broad moat from 6 to 8 feet in depth, the sides of which were formerly lined with wall. On the south side the building rises out of the water, and here the walls have great thickness.

On the north-west and north-east the position was defended in old days by fen ground, which, at a time when drainage was unpractised, served better the office of safeguard than water. And beyond, in those directions, this impassable region spread immeasurably, such retreats being, in ancient times, the dens and hiding-places of the fugitive and the persecuted, or, in turn, of the repulsed oppressor, in this flat and open portion of the country. But since these times, security having been diffused over the country, and these secluded retreats and natural fastnesses, falling into disuse because not required, also fell into ruin. The operations which civilising peace, introduced, for the production of its concomitant plenty, by bringing into use the means of nature, dried up the strength of those ancient refuges, and now the water which formerly environed them is curbed within the narrow bounds of a brook, and the old swamp exhibits the bright face of bountiful pasture-land, adorned, park-like, with aspiring poplars and ash. The spot, indeed, though much neglected, possesses very large capabilities. Whether we consider the nature of the soil, or the lay of the surface, or, which is more important, the historical associations attached to the place, it deserves to be looked upon as one of those spots which a traveller would make a point of visiting with the object of gratifying antiquarian feeling or kindling antiquarian interest, and one which might be expected to engage warmly, its owner's affections, the more especially if family and local history unite their interest.

Cole, in his MSS. states that "he can give but a very meagre and sorry account of the ecclesiastical history of the place, as it lies on the east side of the boundary (an earthwork called the Devil's Ditch) which separated the kingdom of the East Angles from that of the Mercians; consequently the bishop of that part of our island which constituted the East-Anglian monarchy, whether seated at Dunwich, Elmham, or finally, at Norwich, had always that parte of Cambridgeshire on the east side of the boundary as parte of his diocese," so that he had not an opportunity of searching the registers of the see of Norwich, which should give the succession of chaplains, patrons, &c., relating to the church.

What he can, however, he gives in his collections, and the substance is as follows:—

"In the time of Edward I., the prior of Fordham held the chapel of Lanwiche, as it was then called, belonging to the church of Bernewell, as an impropriation by the gift of Robert de Sturggis, junior, with fifty acres of land held by the honour of Richmond,† in pure alms. I am almost tempted to think (says he) that this De Sturggis is a mistake in my book for Richard de Hastings, who is known to have been lord of the manor of that reign, and who probably was the benefactor to Fordham Priory of this chapel.

The church, which is dedicated to St. Nicholas, stands in the diocese of Norwich,‡ archdeaconry of Sudbury, and deanery of Fordham.

It is only a chapel to the vicarage of Burwell, and belongs, as Exuing does, to the chapter of Canterbury.

It is, as it were, a chapel to the mansion—a donative. The bishop has no jurisdiction, and of course no christening or marriages are there performed.

The church is built in the exact form of a cross, consisting of a square tower at the west end, in which hang three bells, and on which is placed a small leaded spire, terminated by a leaden cross.

It has a nave of 42 feet by 19 feet 6 inches, two cross aisles or chapels of equal dimensions, 20 feet by 12, an unusual breadth, and a chancel of 21 feet, of which 3 feet at the east end are slightly elevated. The chancel is of the same height and breadth as the nave.

It has also a south porch. At the ends of the two chapels and chancel are three stone crosses of good workmanship and perfect, an unusual circumstance, as such decoration has usually been despoiled during the prevalence of fanaticism. The whole of this building was erected by Walter Cotton, Esq., who died in 1445, after having glazed the church in a very beautiful and expensive manner, as is evident from what remains thereof to this day.

The altar stands on an eminence of one step, but without any rails to surround it, the good effect of which arrangement, though very rare, is likewise well shewn in King's College Chapel.

Over the Creed and Lord's Prayer are the Cotton arms, painted on the hall, viz., sable, a chevron between three griffins' heads, erased, argent, with the Ulster arms on the cheveron.

In almost all the windows of the chapel, and particularly in the east window of the chancel, are the figures of angels, having each a cross on his head.

There is no chancel arch, but only a pretty high screen to divide the chancel from the nave and cross aisles.

This screen is of good Early Perpendicular character, but its beauty is as yet obscured by paint.

The roof of the nave is timber, panelled, divided by arched principals, six in number, each of which has a head for a corbel. There are a king's head and a monk's head, both well executed, on the south side of the chancel, but the whole is covered with whitewash. The floor of the church is occupied by open seats, with common poppy heads—these are also disfigured by paint.

There is likewise a south door and porch, not used, and two windows on either side of the nave, east of these doors. The belfry arch is similar to that in St. Peter's, Cambridge. The shafts, in height, are about 3 to 1 in proportion to the arch, and the span is small.

* It is not surprising that this place should not be well known, when so interesting an example of the old manor house as Hawston Hall, only 7 miles distant, has been little noticed. At Haslingfield and Histon there are likewise good specimens.

† Early history.

‡ In 1840, transferred to the see of Ely.

METROPOLITAN COMMISSION OF SEWERS.

A SPECIAL court of the Metropolitan Commissioners of Sewers was held at the Sewers' office, Greek-street, Soho-square, on Thursday in last week, for the purpose of receiving a jury and their presentment, as to the persons and property liable to be rated to sewer-rates in the eastern division of the Westminster Sewers. The Right Hon. Lord Morpeth, M.P., in the chair.

The jury having been sworn, Lord Morpeth delivered a very voluminous charge, of which the following are the most important points:—

Having alluded to the statute of Henry VIII., by which they were called together, he remarked that—"It could not then have been contemplated that it would ever have fallen to the men of the county to have to assess in one single district between 50,000 and 60,000 individuals, or the owners of more than 50,000 tenements, occupied by a population of nearly half a million, having a rental of upwards of 3,000,000*l.* sterling. This multitude of properties renders it impracticable for you within any reasonable time, to make direct inspection and adjustment of that part of the Westminster Commission this day brought before you, called the eastern division of the Westminster Sewers, within which there are nearly 15,000 separate tenements, with a rental of about 800,000*l.*, so that it will be necessary to have recourse to intermediate agency to guide you in your decision."

His lordship then adverted to the staff of officers that had been appointed. Upon the state of the sewers generally, he said—"The sewers of the district were, and, unfortunately, yet are, and, with our best efforts, are likely long to continue to be what our officers describe them to be, "stagnant cesspools." We have had sewers in the same district running different ways, sewers made at a great public expense, which accumulated pestilential deposits (90,000 tons, or 62,000 cubic yards of which have been flushed away). Much of this has arisen from the want of a proper survey. The remedy for this is to obtain a proper survey, which will not only govern the main drainage, but house drainage, a better construction of the streets, a better distribution of water, an identification of properties, a better valuation, a more equal collection of rates, an universal efficiency, and a reduced expense of works—all of which are gained by consolidation."

The charge then pointed out the saving in works now executed, contrasting the cost with what it would have been formerly. On the subject of consolidation of the different commissions into one central system, his lordship thus remarked:—

"Our own position must be shewn by contrast with representation which has been made, that increased expenses will be the consequence of consolidation, or what is deemed centralisation of our local institutions, at the time of real pressure. It is of importance that the truth should be known, and that the public should be informed that what has been effected has been the cause of real improvement, as one of economy, and a reduction of expenditure. A complete system of drain sewerage may be made for all Westminster at a charge not exceeding 5*s.* per house, or little more than a penny per week, for works more complete than any now existing."

With regard to tavern expenses, the charge contained the following remarks:—

"Among the items of saving were the allowances for dinners. The statute makes no provision for dinners, and we have discountenanced the practice. We should not hold it to be good policy to hold forth the pleasures of the table as a prominent inducement to the service. In strict law, however, we felt it an ungracious duty to disallow the payment of the dinner bills of our predecessors, to the amount of 184*l.* for the last two months they were in office. We take no dinners ourselves, and therefore we can offer no public hospitality to you." In conclusion, his lordship said—

"We cite, as an example of consolidation, that of the Metropolitan Road Commissioners, by which the roads have been improved and the debts reduced; while the business of 100 miles of road is transacted satisfactorily, with economy of time on the part of the members of the Board. It may be expected that the business of the sewers of the whole of the metropolis may be despatched better and more expeditiously than it could be accomplished by separate commissions."

The jury having made their presentment, the foreman (Mr. Mason, of Piccadilly) said it was the wish of his brother jurors that the charge of the noble chairman should be printed and circulated for the information of the public.

A general court was held on Thursday morning last.

The following report was presented on the subject of the Ordnance survey, and adopted:—

"The Committee of General Purposes having considered the resolution of the Court of the 23rd of March last, that this committee be requested to engage properly qualified persons to perform the work recommended in the report then received and adopted by the Court.

"Having considered the offer communicated on the 23rd March, made by Colour-Sergeant Smith to Mr. Roe, the surveyor to the Court, stating that he, Sergeant Smith, had served his time, and was willing to his discharge, and desired employment under the Commission, and that he was willing to serve on the execution of the work in question.

"Resolved, That Colour-Sergeant Smith be engaged as one of the properly qualified persons to perform the service authorised by the Court, at a rate of 200*l.* per annum during the time he is engaged on such work.

"Resolved, That it be submitted to the Right Hon. Lord Viscount Morpeth, to request the Master-General of the Ordnance to permit the discharge of Colour-Sergeant Smith in the usual manner, at as early a period as may be deemed convenient."

A supplementary report recommended the appointment of a staff of officers to be under the direction of Colour-Sergeant Smith.

Lord Morpeth said he had had a communication with the Master-General of the Ordnance, and he was authorised to state that Colour-Sergeant Smith will be discharged on a certain day.

A letter was read from Sir John Hall, the superintendent of the St. Katherine's Dock Company, in answer to an application made from this court for all papers and documents belonging to the late Tower Hamlets' Commission, in the possession of that Company. The letter stated that a book had been sent accordingly; but that it was the desire of the company, as they had purchased the whole of the property in this division, that the control of the sewers might remain in their hands, as it was of great importance to them that they should be attended to, and as they had made no call on the inhabitants of the precinct for any sewer rates.—It was considered, and a resolution passed to the effect, that this court could not commit to any private company the management of the sewers, but that an arrangement would be made with the company as to the amount incurred on that account.

The following resolutions of the General Purpose Committee were adopted:—

"That no person be retained in the service of the commission as a salaried officer who is in private practice, or whose whole time is not available to the public service.

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